

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. Claims 20 and 44 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 1, 25, 42 and 49 have been amended, and claims 50-53 have been added by the present Amendment. Amended claims 1, 25, 42 and 49 and new claims 50-53 do not introduce any new subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 12, 18, 20, 25, 26-29, 33, 35, 36, 41-42, 44 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0011548 ("Nakajima"). Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 25 and 49 and the claims dependent thereon are not anticipated by Nakajima.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima does not disclose the limitations of amended claims 1, 25 and 49, especially at least some of the voltage transmission lines having different widths from each other.

For example, as shown in Fig. 6, the gate-off voltage transmission line SL_{off} has the largest width among the voltage transmission lines, and a common voltage transmission line SL_{com} has a larger width than the ground voltage, the supply voltage

and the gate-on voltage transmission lines SL_{dd} , SL_{ss} and SL_{on} . See, e.g., Applicants' Disclosure, Fig. 6; page 21, lines 17-22.

In contrast, Nakajima discloses a D/A conversion circuit 28u of an H driver 13u, and a reference voltage generation circuit 15 including a plurality of voltage division resistors R1 to R7. See Nakajima, Figs. 3, 6 and 7. Unlike the claimed embodiments, there is no difference of width between voltage transmission lines.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 25 and 49 are not anticipated by Nakajima.

Also, claims 2-5, 9, 12 and 18 depend from claim 1, and claims 26-29, 33, 35, 36 and 41-42 depend from claim 25, which, for the reasons stated hereinabove, are submitted not to be anticipated by the cited reference. For at least those very same reasons, claims 2-5, 9, 12, 18, 26-29, 33, 35, 36 and 41-42 are also submitted not to be anticipated by the cited reference, claims 20 and 44 having been canceled.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 12, 18, 20, 25, 26-29, 33, 35, 36, 41-42, 44 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19, 30-32, 34, 37-40, 43 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima.

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 21-23 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0033259 ("Sakaguchi").

As argued above, Applicants respectfully submit that Nakajima does not expressly or inherently disclose at least some of the voltage transmission lines having different widths from each other, as recited in independent claims 1, 25 and 49. Further, it would not have been obvious, when Nakajima is taken alone or in view of Sakaguchi, to develop same.

As argued above, Nakajima does not disclose or suggest differences of width between voltage transmission lines. In addition, Sakaguchi does not provide any teaching or suggestion of same.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Nakajima, when taken alone or in combination with Sakaguchi does not disclose or suggest the recited features of claims 1, 25 and 49, and that it would not have been obvious to modify Nakajima, when Nakajima is taken alone, or in view of Sakaguchi, to develop same.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 25 and 49 are patentable over Nakajima alone or in view of Sakaguchi. For at least the reason that claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19 and 21-23 depend from claim 1, and claims 30-32, 34, 37-40, 43 and 45-47 depend from 25, claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19, 21-23, 30-32, 34, 37-40, 43 and 45-47 are also submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

Additional Comments

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness for many of the claims. For example, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness for at least claims 8, 10, 13, 21-23, 32, 34, 37 and 45-47.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any prima facie conclusion of obviousness. See M.P.E.P. § 2142. "To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed invention or the Examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references." Id. (citing Ex parte Clapp, 227 USPQ 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985)).

With respect to claims 21-23 and 45-47, the Examiner merely states that Sakaguchi discloses input pads, and that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use input pads at the end of signal lines so as to connect signal lines to the drivers." However, the Examiner has not explained why Sakaguchi would have fairly suggested, to one of ordinary skill in the art, the use of contact assistants in addition to the pads, and the use of a pad for defect testing, nor has the Examiner provided any convincing line of reasoning for the obviousness determination. Indeed, a review of the cited sections of Sakaguchi reveals that Sakaguchi generally mentions connection pads, but does not discuss contact assistants, or the use of pads for defect testing.

Also, with respect to claims 8, 10, 13, 32, 34 and 37, the Examiner argues that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to place any signal lines or power lines having any voltage near the reference voltage transmission lines so as to reduce the area needed to mount the driving circuit as well as the overall size of the display device." However, the Examiner has not explained why Nakajima would have fairly suggested, to one of ordinary skill in the art, gate-on,

gate-off and common voltages being transmitted by respective gate-on, gate-off and common voltage transmission lines of a plurality of arranged voltage transmission lines, nor has the Examiner provided any convincing line of reasoning for the obviousness determination. Indeed, what Examiner calls the voltage transmission lines (carrying reference voltages V_0 to V_7) do not carry gate-on, gate-off and common voltages.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's reasoning in support of the obviousness rejections is based almost entirely on speculation and conjecture and relies on Applicants' disclosure and teachings to supply that which the cited references lacks.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness of at least claims 8, 10, 13, 21-23, 32, 34, 37 and 45-47.

As such, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-17, 19, 21-23, 30-32, 34, 37-40, 43, 45-47 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of all the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, *supra*, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 24 and 48, and reserve the right to rewrite claims 24 and 48 in independent form in a subsequent response and/or communication.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", written over a horizontal line.

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